GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2636
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher education especially in Medical and Engineering has become costly for the lower and middle class population in the country;

(b) if so,the details and facts thereof;

(c) if not,the comparative details for the last three years,State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make higher education available to the children of poor families?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): The fees charged for professional courses by the unaided and self financing institutions are known to be relatively higher than those in the publicly funded institutions.The Supreme Courts in its judgement in the matter of Islamic Academy of Education and another Vs the State of Karnataka and others,had directed that the State Governments should set up in each State a Committee to approve/fix the fee which can be charged by an institute.In the absence of appropriate laws for the purpose,the Apex Court upheld these Committees while revisiting the 'Islamic Academy' in the matter of P.A. Inamdar Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a Committee in August,2007 to formulate inter alia, regulations with regard to admission and fee for self financing private professional institutions including deemed to be universities.The UGC has not yet taken any decision on the recommendations of the Committee.

In order to ensure that nobody is denied professional education because he or she is poor,a scheme for providing interest subsidy on the loans taken by students belonging to non-creamy layer from Banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Bank's Association for pursuing professional education in India,is under consideration of the Government.